

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03993 271946Z
ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 SS-15 IGA-02 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00
/052 W

-----272014Z 090996 /66

P R 271824Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0687
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3993

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, PARM, MILI, AR
SUBJECT: HELICOPTER PURCHASE BY ARGENTINE AIR FORCE

1. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT A REQUEST FOR EXPORT LICENSE FOR EIGHT BELL MODEL 212 HELICOPTERS IS PENDING IN THE DEPARTMENT. TWO OF THESE HELICOPTERS ARE TO BE IN A VIP CONFIGURATION FOR PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT OPERATIONS. THEY WILL PROVIDE AN ADDED SAFETY, SECURITY AND INSTRUMENT FLIGHT CAPABILITY FOR PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL. THE OTHER SIX, IN A UTILITY CONFIGURATION, ARE DESTINED FOR USE IN THE ANTARCTIC. THEY WILL ENHANCE THE SAFETY AND INSTRUMENT FLIGHT CAPABILITIES OF THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE (ARGAF) IN SUPPORT OF SCIENTIFIC OPERATIONS. THE GOA HAS BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE AND FORTHCOMING WITH ASSISTANCE FOR NSF ANTARCTIC OPERATIONS, INCLUDING EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF US PERSONNEL. SALE OF THESE HELICOPTERS WILL INCREASE THE GOA CAPABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE SIMILAR ASSISTANCE IN THE FUTURE. THESE AIRCRAFT WILL HAVE NO RPT NO INTERNAL SECURITY ROLE.

2. THE ARGAF MATERIEL COMMAND APPROACHED OUR AIR ATTACHE (AIRA) RECENTLY TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF THE
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EXPORT LICENSE. ARGAF APPROACH TO AIRA WAS MATTER-OF-FACT. GOA FUNDS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED FOR HELICOPTER PURCHASE. THEY WANT HELICOPTERS SOON; PREFERABLY THE BELL MODEL 212, TO BE PREPARED FOR THE NEXT ANTARCTIC SUMMER CAMPAIGN. WE HAVE REPORTS THAT THE FRENCH ARE PREPARED TO MAKE DELIVERY OF PUMA HELICOPTERS ON SHORT NOTICE, IF GIVEN THE PURCHASE ORDER.

3. WE URGE THE DEPARTMENT TO GIVE PROMPT ATTENTION
TO THIS MATTER, AND RECOMMEND A FAVORABLE DECISION. WE
ARE CONVINCED THAT FURTHER DELAY, OR DENIAL OF THE
PURCHASE WILL JEOPARDIZE A TRADITIONAL MARKET FOR
THE US AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROCUREMENT, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, HELICOPTERS, AIR FORCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUENOS03993
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770190-0659
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770511/aaaaajdx.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 95a06088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION MC
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2343210
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HELICOPTER PURCHASE BY ARGENTINE AIR FORCE
TAGS: ETRD, PARM, MILI, AR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/95a06088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009